

clinical and laboratory features of drug-induced systemic lupus erythematosus but tells us nothing new about its pathogenesis or management. The chapters on lymphocyte responses in vitro and circulating immune complexes are profusely documented but insufficiently didactic to be of immediate practical value. There are splendid chapters on auto-antibodies to insulin receptors, the control of IgE synthesis, and lymphocytotoxic antibodies. However these contributions deal with immunopathological mechanisms rather than clinical problems. This book therefore can be classed as a first-rate selection of review articles on immunological topics but its contents are primarily of academic interest and are not directly applicable to clinical management.

AM DENMAN

Biochemical Tests for Identification of Medical Bacteria. 2nd ed. Jean F MacFaddin. (Pp 527; 40 colour figures; £27.75.) Williams & Wilkins. 1980.

All too often routine tests for bacterial identification are taken for granted by those who perform them so a text that sets out in considerable detail the biochemical backgrounds and methodology for 34 commonly used tests serves as a valuable reminder of their underlying complexity. This new edition of MacFaddin's book is almost twice as long as the original. Details of five additional tests are included, the sections on bacterial identification data and commercial multitest systems have been extended, and more appendices have been added.

Unfortunately the expansion of the book's length has not been accompanied by any improvement in the writing. Occasionally the abuses of syntax border on misinformation. For example, 'Optochin has specific sensitivity for *S. pneumoniae*' implies that the chemical is inhibited by the bacterium! Moreover, the book perpetuates old-fashioned names (e.g. 'dextrose' and 'levulose') and units (e.g. ' μ ' instead of ' μm '). Although the author states correctly that the name of the CAMP test (synergistic haemolysis by bacterial species) is an acronym based on the surnames of its originators, it is referred to throughout as the cAMP test, wrongly implying that cyclic adenosine monophosphate is involved.

For a ring-bound, paper-covered volume the price of the new edition appears to be excessive.

FC ODDS

Biology of Ovarian Neoplasia. UICC Technical Report Series. Vol 50. Ed ED Murphy and WG Beamer. (Pp 132; illustrated; Sw fr 16.) UICC. 1980.

The report reviews current feelings on the aetiology, pathogenesis, and pathophysiology of human ovarian cancer with contributions from 10 international authorities. It is stressed that histological classification should adhere to that laid down by the WHO and advises that more emphasis is laid on demographic studies, risk factors, associated infertility, and oral contraception. More detailed knowledge on ovarian embryology and the exploitation of available animal models are encouraged. Morphological study, it is said, would be enhanced by fuller evaluation of pituitary function in patients with ovarian neoplasms and the clarification of the value of tumour markers, hormone receptors, and immunological aspects of ovarian tumour-associated antigens. The final section suggests avenues of approach for future investigation. The report is accompanied by a moderate number of suitable references and is useful and important both to the research worker and to those with a clinico-pathological interest in ovarian neoplasia.

JOW BEILBY

Recent Advances in Clinical Virology. No 2. Ed AP Waterson. (Pp 190; illustrated; £16.) Churchill Livingstone. 1980.

Professor AP Waterson has edited a worthy successor to volume 1. The hepatitis story continues in four chapters on hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and its passive immunoprophylaxis; there is a review of 'Non-A, non-B hepatitis' of which there are probably at least two parenterally transmissible and one faecal-orally transmissible agent. Herpesviruses provide three chapters—a concise review of current chemotherapeutic agents, a detailed discussion of eye infections, and a critical updating of herpes encephalitis and the problems of diagnosis and evaluation of chemotherapy. Both herpes and hepatitis infections come into the chapter on sexually transmitted virus disease. The papovavirus theme is continued in chapters where modern molecular biological techniques are bringing order into classification of human papillomaviruses and in a usefully detailed updating of polyomaviruses, their epidemiology and clinical implications. The complex relation between multiple sclerosis and antibody to

measles envelope antigens is critically reviewed by KB Fraser, and the final chapter provides a common sense discussion of safety matters by TH Flewett. This is a useful book and a good buy.

NR GRIST

Carleton's Histological Technique. 5th ed. RAB Drury and EA Wallington. (Pp 520; illustrated; £24.) Oxford Medical Publications. 1980.

'Carleton' has been the histologists' benchmark book of choice since 1926 and the 1980 fifth edition will ensure that it maintains this position. The core of the book remains centred on tissue fixation, processing, microtomy, and staining and most of the techniques described are well tried and known to be reliable. Most standard practical procedures are set out in detail and the technologist is told precisely what to do and what to expect. The scientific basis of these procedures is dealt with briefly but sufficiently, whilst well selected references are provided for those who wish to delve more deeply. Excellent new sections are included dealing with morphometry, diagnostic cytology, and immunocytochemistry. Ultramicrotomy is not included but there is a useful brief outline of transmission and scanning electron microscopy. The use of plastic embedded tissues for light microscopy will no doubt be developed more fully in the next edition. This edition is an excellent text, essential reading for all histopathologists and their technical staff.

B CORRIN

The Laboratory Diagnosis of Toxoplasmosis. Public Health Laboratory Service Monograph No 13. (Pp 20; illustrated; paperback £2.) HMSO. 1980.

This is the 13th publication in the PHLS Monograph Series and, like its predecessors, gives a clear and authoritative guide to the laboratory aspects of its subject. There are short descriptions of the epidemiology and clinical forms of toxoplasmosis, while the main part of the monograph gives the procedures for the several serological tests for antibody detection. There are sections on the significance of the tests, on veterinary aspects, and on treatment. Each aspect is dealt with succinctly and informatively and the handbook thoroughly deserves a place on the microbiology bookshelf.

JP SANDERSON